(b) if so, the assessment about the expenditure;

(c) whether any assessment about the income likely to be generated through advertisement has also been made; and

(d) if so, the estimate thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that during the current financial year 2003-2004, Rs. 20.00 crores has been sanctioned and for the financial year 2004-2005, a provision of Rs. 54.00 crores has been proposed. Prasar Bharati has also informed that for the year 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, the revenue generation of Doordarshan News Channel is targeted at 50% and 100% respectively of the cost of the scheme estimated at Rs. 54.00 crores.

Dual revenue by pay channels

†2099. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on one hand the pay channels are charging money from the advertising companies and on the other hand they also collect money from the people who watch these programmes;

(b) if so, the justifications therefor;

(c) if this practice is against the rules, the steps taken by Government to check the same; and

(d) the countries where the practice of dual recovery of revenue is prevalent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The pay channels money from advertising companies and also collect money from its subscribers. The rates for the pay channels are determined by the broadcasters/MSOS. There are no provisions either under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 or the rules framed thereunder to regulate the amount payable by the subscribers

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

for pay channels. No data regarding the names of the countries, where the trend of dual recovery of revenue exists, is centrally maintained.

Import of set to top boxes

†2100. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether set top boxes would be imported;

(b) whether the manufacturing of the set top boxes cannot be done in the country;

c) whether the imported set top boxes would not cost more; and

(d) whether in case of any technical fault, spares of these set top boxes would be available easily in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A series of meetings were held with the indigenous manufacturers to ascertain their capability for making available the Set Top Boxes (STBs). It was, *inter alia,* indicated by the Consumer Electronics and T.V. Manufactures Association (CETMA) that they would require sometime to make these boxes available in the market. Hence, the indigenous industry was not full prepared to gear up to the situation. For a smooth and successful implementation of conditional access system, it was, therefore, decided to make these boxes available to consumers initially through imports by the Multi-System Operators and the Cable Operators from abroad until the indigenous production gathered momentum. Consequent on the reducation of customs duty on import of STBs, these would be made available to the consumers at affordable prices.

(d) Government through Cable Television (Amendment) Rules, 2003 dated 6.6.2003, has made it obligatory for cable operators to make provisions for rent, security deposit, repair and maintenance of STBs. In case of technical fault, if any it will be the responsibility of the cable operators to get them repaired/replaced. The above notification is available in Ministry's website *www. mib.nic.in*

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.